

Anrita Bazar Patrika

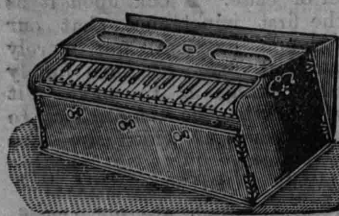
BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXVI

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1905

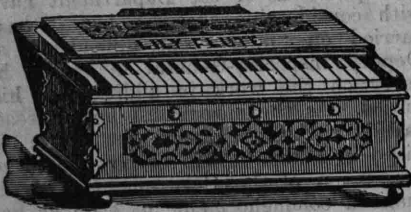
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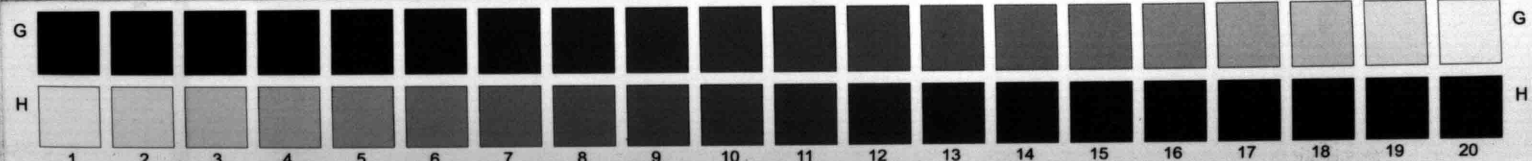
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 6, 1905.

FURTHER REMARKS ON VICEROY'S
SPEECH.

We pointed out in our last that the Viceroy would profess love for the Indians, and yet treat them as children. He is a foreigner and not in touch with the country; yet his strong conviction is that, without Indian co-operation, he can not only govern India well, but has, in fact, conferred on the people benefits, during the last five years, which they never enjoyed before.

It seems to have never struck His Excellency that this praise of his own administration should proceed from the Indians and not from himself. Are the Indians of the same opinion with His Lordship as regards the excellence of his rule? Of course, not. But if they protest or wince Lord Curzon is ready with his reply. There is no public opinion in India! And why is there no public opinion? Because the dumb millions are silent. But as they are inarticulate, how can they speak? As for the educated classes, well, they are only professional agitators! It is impossible to argue with an individual, however exalted his position, who holds such views and talks in this way.

In the concluding portion of his budget speech, Lord Curzon appears in another character. He thinks he himself is the aggrieved party, and the people are perverse. He describes his own position by certain questions which he expects others to answer. Here is one.

"Is it likely that the individual (meaning himself) who has allowed himself no rest or respite in his labours, be they successful or mistaken, for the Indian people, would endeavour to injure them or thrust them back?"

Ans. Nobody denies that the Viceroy has laboured very hard. It is also never stated that he has deliberately injured the Indian people or thrust them back. Yet they have been injured and thrust back. The very fact of His Excellency's extreme unpopularity proves it. Why did the people worship Lord Ripon, and accord the present Viceroy a different treatment, though both are Englishmen? Why should Indians, who are over-grateful for small mercies, fail to love him, specially when he professes love for them?

The position that Lord Curzon takes is astounding. He would force measures and hurt them at the devoted head of the Indian, though the latter never wanted them, and though he regarded them in the light of disasters. And His Excellency would cry murder if he were told that he had harmed the Indians and thrust them back! True his intention is good; but, it was with the best of motives the plague measures were inaugurated. Yet the Government had to admit afterwards the atrocious character of these measures. Good intention thus often-times covers a multitude of sins.

As for his Lordship's hard labour, the Indians are not responsible for it. They did not want him; he with his eyes open fastened himself upon them. And if he had to work incessantly, he could console himself with the thought that he is the most princely-paid official in the world, and he exercises his authority over three hundred millions of human beings. And was it to make the people happy that he allowed himself no rest or respite, or to strengthen the Empire on the interests of England, and provide for his countrymen and the "Poor Whites" with appointments?

Indeed, Lord Curzon has never made a secret of the fact that the Empire requires his first, and the people, his second, consideration. It is thus he has injured the Indians and thrust them back. For the so-called strengthening of the Empire means the sacrifice of the Indians. It means more military expenditure; more European services; more expulsion of the Indians from higher appointments; and more fetters for them; in short, more repression in every direction.

It is, however, quite possible to strengthen the Empire without doing any injury to the Indians. If the Indians were trusted and their services utilized properly, not only would the foundation of the Empire have been based upon a more solid rock but the people of India would have prospered and shed their best blood for England. It was Lord Ripon who sought to introduce such a policy and succeeded in creating a feeling of oneness in the Indian heart for British rule in India. The good of the people was his first consideration, and that of the Empire, the next. Lord Curzon has elected to follow a quite opposite policy and the inevitable result has followed, namely, the Indians think they have been injured and thrust back. Have they not good grounds for it?

Here is question number two.

"Is there a single class in the country who has been so injured? I will go further and say, is there a single individual?"

Ans. Yes. Take for instance the Indian community in Calcutta. The demolition of the old constitution of the Calcutta Municipality has placed the rate-payers absolutely at the mercy of the executive, and the European element has been made supreme in that body. It has also deprived the people of the only self-governing institution in the country which they possessed. Take another measure, the Official Secrets Act. The class of journalists, both Indian and European, have been vitally injured by it. Here is yet another. The Viceroy's educational policy has thoroughly officialized the Indian Universities; and it is now one long cry of distress throughout the country that a death-blow has at last been dealt at high education. In Bengal, fancy, an unsympathetic official like Mr. Pedler is the autocrat who rules the Calcutta University. As for individuals, is not every Indian Prince trembling in his State, after the manner (Holkar) was made to abdicate his throne. Where is the Viceroy during whose administration were so many Indian Princes deposed?

Here is another question.

"Would a man who has devoted his whole life to preaching the lessons of the East, its history and traditions, who has often been hailed by his own countrymen for his enthusiasm for the religions and movements and literature of the East, and who has, while in India given such abundant proofs of his reverence for faiths and feelings that are not his own turn round and assail what he had hitherto revered? These questions I must leave others to answer."

Here is a riddle, indeed! There is no doubt that Lord Curzon is an enthusiast as regards

Eastern faiths and feelings; yet, the Convocation speech, in which he cast aspersions upon Eastern character and literature, is a stern fact, which cannot be got over. Human mind is, however, full of strange anomalies. Like Lord Curzon, Mr. Kipling is also an admirer of the East. Indeed, he owes many of his stories, which made him famous, to Hindu literature. Yet no one has such contempt for the East as he, and he expressed this feeling in his well-known couplet, "East is East, etc." and Lord Curzon has the highest admiration for this Mr. Kipling who entertains such low opinion of the Easterners to whom he is indebted so much!

Another man, who speaks in rapturous terms of the East and has in fact renounced the religion of his forefathers and accepted that of the Hindus, is also a bitter hater of the Hindu nation. He is Mr. Sinnet, who is a follower of Koot Hoomi, a Hindu Mahatma, whom he has seen both in his physical and astral form. Yet he never slips an opportunity of speaking ill of the Hindus. Lord Curzon will thus see that there is nothing extraordinary in the spectacle of an Englishman professing love and admiration for the Indians, and, at the same time, hating them to the best of his power.

THE THIEF, THE MAGISTRATE, AND
THE GOVERNMENT.

Is the administration falling to pieces? The following answers and questions in the Bengal Council will go to suggest that it is so:

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose asked—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph that appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," dated 28th February, 1905, in which Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Hooghly, is said to have called for of his own accord the records of the case of one Azoom Khan, an under-trial prisoner, from the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore and decided the same himself and made the complainant, one Nassir, pay Rs. 18 for the expenses of the accused?

(b) Does the Government think the aforesaid action of the District Magistrate is justified?

Here is the Government version of the case:

The Hon'ble Mr. Curzon replied:—

"Sir: The facts appear to be these. Azoom Khan was a youth who, having been induced to come to Hooghly from Peshawar by his former master, the person referred to as Nassir, desired to return and applied to Nassir for money to enable him to do so. The application was refused; and therefore Azoom stole the property of a third person, bought a railway ticket and went to Peshawar, whence he was brought back under arrest on a warrant issued at the instance of the owner of the property stolen. The District Magistrate ascertained these facts in the course of an official visit to the jail, withdrew the case, which he thought a particularly hard one from the file of the Joint-Magistrate to his own, and, after convicting the accused, verbally directed, not the complainant, as the Hon'ble Member thinks, but Nassir, whom he regarded as responsible for all that had happened, to pay the accused's expenses home. This direction, which was not a judicial order and could not have been enforced, was promptly complied with."

"Under the law, a District Magistrate is competent to transfer if he thinks fit, any case to his own file from that of a Subordinate Magistrate, and it is not for the Government to consider whether or not Mr. Carey exercised his discretion properly in this instance. For the rest, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that Mr. Carey's action, though hardly discreet, is prompted by the best of motives, and that the man Nassir apparently acquiesced in Mr. Carey's view of his duty to the boy."

That a Magistrate in India, vested with enormous powers, should trample law, order—nay decency under foot, is not strange. But it is surely the first time that the Government has come forward to defend such unjustifiable acts. The case, as told by the Government, is neither absolutely correct nor complete. Indeed, some important facts have been suppressed and the matter put as favourably on behalf of Mr. Carey as possible. Let us however to-day deal with the case as related by the Government. We shall relate the other version in a future issue.

Well, the story of the Government is that Azoom Khan was wronged by his guardian, and he therefore stole the money of another person. And it should be remembered that this third party did no harm to the youth who stole his money. The fact is, the "youth" was a thief, and therefore, not very particular as to whose money he stole. He was anxious to go home and wanted money, and so he stole the money of another, he was within his reach. Having case, it was within his reach. Having stolen the money of a third party he runs away to his home. The law overtakes him and he is brought back and Mr. Carey takes this wicked thief under his protection.

Why Mr. Carey was so attracted to this youth, who was a stranger to him, is another question. But he could not interfere with this case as it was in the file of another Magistrate. He might have of course gone to that Magistrate and represented to him the "hard" fate of the "youth". But he was not sure whether any Magistrate would, like him, be disposed as he was, to sympathize with and set free a thief. So he adopted the other course, the law empowers him to resort to, namely, to transfer the case from the file of his subordinate to that of his own. But pray, was this power conferred on the Magistrates for the purpose of enabling them to give protection to thieves? Here let us mention one fact which is suppressed, deliberately we fear. Nassir was made to pay the railway fare of the excellent youth to enable him to go home. But who paid back the complainant the money that was stolen from him by Azoom? The Government reply is silent on the point.

But there is another circumstance which has not been explained. It is this: The plea is that the youth got home-sick and stole money to provide for his passage expenses. But did he take more than what he required? In short was he only home-sick or gold-sick too? The complaint against the youth was that he had committed regular burglary, broken open the box of his benefactor and removed everything valuable from it. In short it was proved that he was a most impudent thief, despite his knowledge of Pushtoo.

It is admitted that Nassir was summoned before Magistrate Mr. Carey and was "asked" by him to pay Azoom his passage home. And what was the result? Well, says the Government reply, "This direction, which was not a judicial order and could not have been enforced, was promptly complied

with." Be it remembered that Nassir had previously refused to pay Azoom his passage expenses, how is it that he did not refuse now but paid it "promptly"? He knows as every child does, that Mr. Carey could not have enforced him to pay the amount; yet what led him to pay the amount so promptly? Does the Government pretend to believe that he did it willingly? No sane man would do it. He paid because the mighty Magistrate had ordered him to do it—that is the simple and only explanation.

Let us examine here the point that Mr. Carey was moved by "the best of motives" to take this thief under his especial protection. The situation was this. It so happened that Mr. Carey visited the Serampur jail. There he came across this Afghan youth of 18, and immediately took a fancy for him. Why he was so attracted is not known. Possibly because he spoke Pushtoo, a language which Mr. Carey had learnt from his menial Afghan servants. Possibly they conversed in Pushtoo, and something like a friendship between them was at once formed.

Well, Mr. Carey ascertained the fact that the youth had stolen money from a party, who was no other than the host of Azoom and his alleged guardian Nassir. When Nassir and Azoom came to the Hooghly district it was this third party who gave them food and shelter. Azoom stole money from this host of his. So he was not only an ordinary thief but an impudent and ungrateful thief. Yet the friendship between the Magistrate and Azoom was not disturbed. As Azoom was caught red-handed, Mr. Carey had no alternative but to convict him; but he sentenced him to be confined only for a few hours and Nassir was made to pay his liabilities including his passage expenses!

Now, may we enquire how the best motive of Mr. Carey was established from the above circumstances? It is quite possible Mr. Carey took pity upon the young man. But why should the youth deserve pity at all? If Nassir had done him a wrong, he had remedy in the law court. But he did not avail himself of it. Feeling home-sick and Nassir having refused him passage expenses, he stole the money of a third party who had given him shelter and food. There was thus nothing in the conduct of Azoom to excite pity. If the Pushtoo of the man had charmed the heart of Mr. Carey, that is no reason why he should take him under his protection when he was a thief, or the Lieutenant-Governor should give shelter to Mr. Carey.

The strange part in this wonderful case is the way Mr. Carey compelled Nassir to pay the passage and other expenses of this Pushtoo-speaking youth. Government very innocently replies that Nassir paid the amount of his own accord. Of course this can never be the fact. He was compelled by the Magistrate to help, the youth which he had refused to do when he was free. Sir A. Fraser at least can do one thing. We think it is his duty to make Mr. Carey pay and recoup the money to Nassir which the latter was forced to make over to the youth.

Of course, Magisterial vagaries are not uncommon, but this is the first time that the ruler of a Province has given protection to a Magistrate who not only trampled law, justice and decency under foot for the purpose of befriending a man who somehow or other had hypnotised him, but gave protection to a most impudent and ungrateful thief. If Sir A. Fraser is unwilling or incapable of controlling his whimsical and law-breaking subordinates, then the administration is sure to fall into pieces in due course, and along with it the Empire itself would end. Law and order must be obeyed and respected, not by the people only but the officials also, and not for the benefit of Indians alone but the rulers themselves. That the Government is capable of holding premium to such scandalous conduct of a Magistrate is what was never dreamt of before.

THE AFGHAN YOUTH AND MR. CAREY.

We said yesterday that some important facts were suppressed in the Government reply to the interpellation of the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu re Mr. Carey and Azoom Khan. Here is the version of the case published in these columns upon which the question of Babu Bhupendra Nath was founded.

The youth by name Azoom Khan came sometime ago to Bengal in company with one Nassir. They put up with Shomash Khan in Singoor for 5 or 6 days. One day Azoom Khan was alleged to have broken open the boxes of Shomash Khan and absconded with what he had abstracted therefrom. A complaint having been lodged a warrant was issued for his arrest to Peshawar. Very lately he was brought under arrest and placed before the Sub-Divisional Officer of Serampore. Pending his trial, he was kept in the Hooghly jail. It so happened that on the 23rd Feb. Mr. Carey went to the Hooghly jail when he saw the youth and took a fancy for him. He enquired and got all particulars about the young man from the Jail Superintendent. He then came to office and asked the Court Sub-Inspector to put up the record of the case against the accused. The Court Sub-Inspector informed him that the record was at Serampore. Mr. Carey asked him to fetch the record at once. Mr. Carey then sent for the complainant, and after arrival of the record, brought the accused from Hooghly jail and summarily tried him on the 24th idem. He found the accused guilty under Section 380 I. P. C. and sentenced him to be imprisoned "till to-morrow morning."

The strange part of the affair is yet to be told. Mr. Carey held Nassir to be the legal guardian of Azoom and directed him to pay Rs. 18 to cover the railway fare and other expenses of the latter. Nassir denied the guardianship, but Mr. Carey was inexorable. The man had thus no option but to do the bidding of the Magistrate Shahib. The amount was paid and the man was granted a receipt.

The Government version of the case is embodied in the reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. Curzon.

Yesterday we commented upon the Government reply to the interpellation. This is necessarily Mr. Carey's version; but there is of course another version, that of Nassir, the alleged "former master" of the interesting youth who so completely won the heart of Mr. Carey. This version is embodied in the paragraphs quoted above from our paper. It will be seen that there is a good deal of difference on some points between the two versions.

First of all, Nassir is represented as "the former master" of Azoom Khan in the Government reply. In the version published in this journal, we are told, that Mr. Carey held Nassir to be the "legal guardian" of Azoom,

but Nassir denied the guardianship. This denial of Nassir is suppressed. It comes to this then, Mr. Carey took Nassir either to be the "former master" of Azoom or his legal guardian. The man denied both these relationships. This denial ought to have settled the point, or if Mr. Carey had yet any doubt, he should have called for evidence. But because, the accused apparently said that Nassir was his former master or legal guardian, the Magistrate accepted his word as absolutely true, forgetting the dictum laid down by the Viceroy that in the East truth is not so highly honoured as in the West. Thus without any judicial enquiry whatever, Mr. Carey found judicially that Nassir was the former master or the legal guardian of the Afghan youth, in spite of Nassir's protest that he was not.

But suppose Nassir was really the former master of Azoom; was he therefore responsible for the rascalities of his quondam servant, Sovan Allah! that is exactly what the Government says in its reply. Here are its words:—

"The District Magistrate (Mr. Carey), after convicting the accused (Azoom), verbally directed Nassir, 'whom he regarded as responsible for all that had happened, to pay the accused's expenses home.'"

So, it was Azoom who committed the theft of his own motion, and it was Nassir who was to be held responsible for it and punished, because he happened to be the former master of the thief, and though even this relationship between the two was not judicially proved! This is what the Government of Bengal, under the guidance of Sir Andrew Fraser, inculcates to the world! On this principle if a servant of Mr. Carey commits a theft, under the circumstances related above, it is Mr. Carey, and not his servant, who should be held responsible and punished. It is thus the responsible rulers of the land lose the balance of their minds, and talk incoherently, when they have to justify unjustifiable acts of the members of the Civil Service.

The next point for consideration is an attempt on the part of the Government to minimise the gravity of the offence, and the unjustifiable character of Mr. Carey's conduct. The reply of the Government gives the idea that it was only a petty theft that was committed by the Afghan young man. The fact is suppressed that the man was accused of having broken open the boxes of Shomash Khan, the third party, and then absconded with what he had abstracted therefrom. If this were true, surely he was not an ordinary thief. Apparently he not only stole from the boxes of a third party what he required for his passage expense home, but something more. And who was this party whom he robbed? It was his benefactor who had given him food and shelter when he first came to Hooghly! All these facts are suppressed in the Government reply.

Surely, such an ungrateful wretch deserved exemplary punishment and no pity. As a matter of fact, unless his conduct was atrociously outrageous, Shomash Khan would not have wasted money and energy uselessly by getting him dragged from Peshawar through a warrant and putting him on his trial; for he had no hope of recovering his stolen property from the man. And what was the punishment meted out to the offender?

Mr. Carey convicted the man under section 380 of the Indian Penal Code. This proves conclusively that the accused committed a heinous crime, for the Section provides punishment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years. And yet, the prisoner was given not seven months, nor seven weeks, nor even seven days! The Magistrate merely sentenced him to be imprisoned "till to-morrow morning." And like King John in Ivanhoe, who proved himself a generous master by taking a handful of gold coins from the purse of Isao the Jew and distributing them among his pets, Mr. Carey displayed his liberality by forcing Nassir to pay the thief his passage and other expenses!

Here we shall digress a little. The Lieutenant-Governor "considers that, Mr. Carey's action was obviously prompted by the best of motives"; which means that his heart overflowed with the milk of human kindness, at the sight of the poor Afghan youth, and hence his action is not to be condemned. But there was not a drop of human kindness in his heart when Mr. Carey dealt with his clerk, Bibhuti Sekhar. The latter was accused of a far less serious offence. Yet Mr. Carey brought successively ten criminal cases against him to crush the man. Armed with irresistible powers, and with the mighty Government to back him, he pursued Bibhuti with a relentlessness which shocked the country. And when the Government was interpellated on the subject, the Lieutenant-Governor admitted the ferocious nature of persecuting the clerk but had not a word to express his dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Magistrate. His Honour now comes forward to attribute the best of motives to the same Magistrate, because, he gave protection to a thief, apparently, because, he happened to be an Afghan, and not a Bengalee.

Another striking feature of the case ought to be mentioned. Suppose the Afghan youth had broken open the cash boxes of Mr. Carey, instead of those belonging to his host, and extracted all their contents. Suppose further he had tried his hand at the iron safes of the Government treasury. And when caught, he pleaded that his former master had refused to pay him his passage expense to go home, he was obliged to commit the theft. Would Mr. Carey have punished him only by keeping him confined in jail for a few hours? And if he had done it, would the Lieutenant-Governor have seen nothing but good motives in his action?

We very much wish that, the Hon'ble Mr. Curzon had not mixed up Sir Andrew Fraser so closely with this scandalous case. In replying to the question of Babu Bhupendra Nath, Mr. Curzon says:—

"For the rest, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that Mr. Carey's action, though hardly discreet, was obviously prompted by the best of motives, and that the man, Nassir, apparently acquiesced in Mr. Carey's view of his duty to the boy."

Now to make the ruler of the Province utter the above sentiments is to lay axe at the root of good administration. Mr. Carey's action, in the opinion of His Honour, was only "hardly discreet." And what was the nature of this action? Let us try to analyse it.

First.—Mr. Carey was unfit to try the case, for as soon as he saw the young thief, he fell in love with him and therefore lost the judicial balance of his mind; yet he tried it and thereby abused the judicial powers vested in him.

Secondly.—Law no doubt transfers a case to his own hands, but it is the intention of the Legislature to transfer the case, who is already prejudiced against or against an accused, should avail of this privilege, for the purpose of punishing him in a summary way.

Thirdly.—By withdrawing the case from the Joint Magistrate, who was more competent to deal with the case, because he had not taken a fancy for the youth, Mr. Carey not only frustrated the ends of justice but cast an unnecessary and undeserved slur upon his subordinate.

Fourthly.—By compelling Nassir to pay the passage and other expenses to the prisoner, Mr. Carey took advantage of his position as a District Magistrate and thus abused his authority, which is a serious offence in a public officer.

Fifthly.—By dealing so generously with the young ungrateful thief, he not only held a premium to crime but encouraged the man to commit similar offences in future.

And the good name of Sir Andrew Fraser is associated with all these proceedings, in which law, procedure, order, even decency were sacrificed ruthlessly!

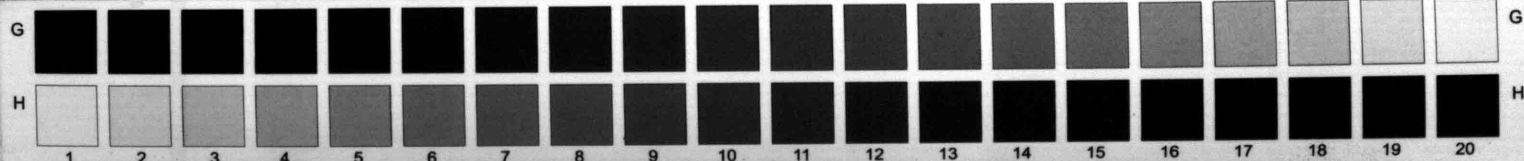
From the letter of our London correspondent, it will be seen that the sensation caused in England by the Convocation speech of Lord Curzon was kept up by the Calcutta protest meeting, a summary of the proceedings of which was wired to the English press through three different sources. The Calcutta correspondent of "India" sent a long telegram which was at once distributed to many influential journals, including the "Morning Leader" and the "Manchester Guardian," which gave it prominent insertion in their respective columns. The "Central News Agency" also sent a telegram from Calcutta and it received wide publicity. The London "Daily News" also published a telegraphic summary of the meeting, and that great organ of the Liberals made the following comment upon it:—

"The scheme for governing the Empire from Balaio is as dead as Chamberlainism. Lord Milner returns next month with failure written over his whole South African record, and the indignation of the Indian people against the actions and speech of Lord Curzon has broken out in a series of demonstrations rare in the history of the dependency. The first of them, which we report in another column, was held yesterday in Calcutta itself, and it is to be followed by other meetings in Bombay and Madras. It is the foolish Convocation speech in which he charged the people he is set to govern with being untruthful that has brought the feeling to a head. We cannot doubt that the calculated insult to the Indian Congress, whose resolutions Lord Curzon refused to accept, also hastened the crisis. Now the storm has come, the whole range of Lord Curzon's bureaucratic and autocratic policy is assailed. Its motive has been external adventure and internal repression. It has aimed at putting back the whole Native movement, in defiance not merely of common justice, but in defiance of the pledge of the Proclamation of 1858. Lord Curzon's industry and love of display are small things to put in the balance against his grave departures from the Liberal and enlightened government of India."

How even some Conservative papers in England enjoyed the retort of the "Patrika" in this connection has been alluded to by our London Correspondent.

TREATMENT of disease by hypnotism or mesmerism is a system now universally recognized in America and Europe. India was the birth-place of this system. Even now it prevails to a considerable extent among lower classes. But it was not raised to the status of a science in this country, and hence it is lost to the Indian nation. In the forties Dr. Esdail introduced the system in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital, and effected wonderful cures by its means. Indeed, a special hospital, called the Esdail Hospital, was founded, where the use of chloroform was absolutely done away with in cases of surgical operation. The patients were mesmerised and put to sleep and then amputated. Unfortunately the hospital disappeared when Dr. Esdail left this country. We are glad to find that a powerful hypnotist like Professor Sylvain Lee has established himself at 8-1, Chowringhee, Calcutta. He professes to cure all nervous diseases, habits etc., by hypnotic suggestions. Many cases of wonderful cures effected by him have been brought to our notice. It is also a fact that, in doubtful cases he declines to accept any fee, till he has succeeded to produce good result. Several prominent men in this city are his patients. Some of them have expressed their deep obligation to the Professor for the service he has been able to render to them. We indite this paragraph, not for the benefit of Professor Lee, but for suffering humanity.

ELSEWHERE is published a very important Resolution of the Government of India on the policy regarding suspension and remission of land revenue. We welcome the document on the principle that 'half a loaf is better than no bread.' But what a confession! It was in 1882 that the first Famine Commission, which was composed of a class of liberal-hearted Englishmen, now practically extinct, strongly recommended the suspension and remission of rent as soon as the first symptoms of distress were discernible. And it is in 1905 that an attempt has been made to give effect to those principles! Within this quarter of a century, however, not only has the country been well-nigh ruined by successive, widespread and devastating famines—two of them considered the greatest famines of the century—but the assessment of land has reached its uttermost limits. If the recommendation of the first Famine Commission had been carried out immediately, the Government would have been saved from the humiliating position of confessing the fact that famine has at last become a permanent factor in India under British rule, and that, in order to save the Empire, the suspension and the remission of land revenue are absolutely necessary! Is there any other country in the British Empire where famine has made its home permanent? The liberality of the Government is, however, not very considerable. First of all, the measure is purely one of grace, and not of right. Secondly, the granting of this grace is hedged in with so many conditions that the agricultural classes will derive very little benefit when the proposed relief is afforded. Famine no relief is to be given unless there is a failure of not less than half the normal crop! Now when a ryot



High Court.—April 4.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Henderson and Geldt.)

COMPLAINING AGAINST A EUROPEAN.
Babu Hemendra Nath Sen moved on behalf of one Gati Mandal who was ordered to be prosecuted under Sec. 182 I. P. C. by the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Kandi, in the district of Murshidabad. The man was prosecuted not once but twice on the same charge for his only fault of reporting against a European. The facts and circumstances under which the case arose are clearly stated in the following petition submitted before their Lordships.

"That your petitioner lodged information in the Saktipore outpost in the Sub-division of Kandi, District Murshidabad, to the effect that a hut occupied by him was demolished by 10 or 12 men and articles were damaged and that one Mr. Williamson of Gordwara Factory was present at a distance.

"That thereupon the Sub-Inspector of the said Saktipore outpost held an investigation and while the same was pending, the Inspector of Police was ordered by the District Superintendent of Police to take up the enquiry himself.

"That the Sub-Inspector submitted the C. Form (true) and the Inspector submitted that the case appeared to be one under Sec. 428 I. P. Code.

"That notwithstanding this, the Sub-divisional Officer of Kandi issued a notice on your petitioner to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under Sec. 211 and 182 I. P. Code for giving false information against Mr. Williamson and ordered him to give security for Rs. 200.

"That thereupon your petitioner filed a written petition of complaint and applied to the Sub-divisional Magistrate for issue of process against the accused and the said Sub-divisional Magistrate ordered your petitioner to produce his witnesses.

"That subsequently the Sub-divisional Magistrate directed the Sub-Deputy Magistrate to make a full enquiry and report.

"That the Sub-Deputy Magistrate examined several witnesses and submitted his report to the effect that the case was a true one, but that it might be dismissed on insufficiency of evidence.

"That upon the above report the Sub-divisional Magistrate ordered the prosecution of your petitioner under Sec. 182 I. P. C. and directed your petitioner to appear before the District Magistrate to take his trial.

"That thereupon your petitioner moved this Hon'ble High Court and a rule having been issued, the said order of the Sub-divisional Magistrate was set aside on the 6th January last by the Criminal Bench of this Hon'ble Court presided over by Justices Geldt and Mukherjee.

"That on 3rd February the following order was passed by the Sub-divisional Magistrate:—

"Read the letter of the Magistrate No. 153 dated 1st February 1905. The fresh order asked for was passed on 14th November 1904. So the record is returned to the Magistrate with the request that the case may be made over to suitable Magistrate for trial—Sd. A. Islam."

"That on the 14th February the said Sub-divisional Officer passed the following order:—

"After a consideration of the evidence recorded by the Sub-Deputy Magistrate I dismiss the petition of Gati Mandal (Sec. 203 Cr. P. C.). Admitting for arguments' sake that the case of Gati Mandal was partly true, inasmuch as there might have been an occurrence he is still liable to a prosecution under Sec. 182 I. P. C. Gati Mandal named Mr. Williamson as the first accused in his petition. He stated on oath that Mr. Williamson was present in the occurrence. These statements are false and I consider them malicious. I therefore direct that Gati Mandal be prosecuted under Sec. 182 I. P. C. The records submitted to the Magistrate for necessary orders.—(Sd.) A. Islam."

"That on the said 14th February the said Sub-divisional Magistrate addressed the following letter to the Magistrate:—

"Sir—With reference to your No. 211 dated the 13th instant I have the honor to state that I have recorded a fresh order for prosecution of Gati Mandal as directed. The records of the case are submitted herein for passing the necessary orders for trial. I have etc.—(Sd.) A. Islam."

"On the same day the District Magistrate passed the following order on the same:—

"The case is made over for trial to Babu Sarat Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate.—(Sd.) A. G. A."

"That on the 25th February a summons was issued on your petitioner under sec. 182 I. P. C. fixing 7th March for appearance.

"That on the said 7th March your petitioner put in a petition under Sec. 526 Cr. P. Code praying for putting off the hearing of the case and granting him time for enabling him to move this Hon'ble Court and the following order was passed on the same:—

"The case has been adjourned to the 20th instant after the examination-in-chief of 7 witnesses."

"That on the 20th March 6 prosecution witnesses out of those examined in chief on the 7th were cross-examined, and on the said 20th March a petition was presented to the trying Magistrate, taking objection to the jurisdiction of the court to try the case, but the Court was pleased to pass the following order:—

"The accused can urge the grounds raised in his petition when the case is argued after witnesses on both sides are examined."

Learned vakils urged the following grounds amongst others:—That the order of the Magistrate directing the prosecution of the petitioner was bad in law and "ultra vires"; that the original proceedings having been quashed by the High Court and no subsequent proceedings having been drawn by the same Magistrate according to law there was no case of any offence against the petitioner; that the recording of fresh order for prosecution of the petitioner by the Sub-divisional officer of Kandi under the direction of the District Magistrate was wholly illegal and unwarranted by law; that the order having been practically given by the District Magistrate was bad in law inasmuch as the District Magistrate never entertained the original complaint nor dismissed the case nor was it passed in the exercise of his appellate or revisional jurisdiction; and that the petitioner's case having been reported to be true the order of the Magistrate was illegal.

Their Lordships issued a rule upon the District Magistrate of Murshidabad to show cause why the order of the Deputy Magistrate directing the prosecution of the petitioner under section 182 I. P. Code should not be set aside on the grounds urged in the petition.

Viceroy's Convocation Speech.

A GRAND PROTEST MEETING AT THE MAYO HALL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, April 3.

The business of the protest meeting commenced a few minutes behind time unavoidably. The Mayo Hall was overcrowded. Even many had to remain standing. Among those present the leading gentlemen were Rai Radha Raman, Babu Rajaram Vaigav, Zeminder Lachmi Narain, Reis Shamsuddin, Jogendra Nath Chowdhury, Pundit Motilal Nehru, Mahomed Isahag Khan, Advocates Moulvi Abdul Majid, Durga Charan Banerjee, Munshi Govind Pershad, J. Simson, D. N. Ohdedar, Gulzarilal, Sital Pershad Ghose, Pundit Buldeo Ram Dave, Harendra Krishna Mookerjee, Gopal Pershad, Bhagwandas Vargav, Sarat Ch. Chowdhury, Lalit Mohan Banerjee, Iswar Saran, Pundit Lalit Proshad Zutshi, Mangal Pershad Vargav, Hari Mohon Roy, Vakils Krishna Buldeo Varma, Reis Ganga Pershad Verma, Editor "Advocate," Babu Kwar Sahai, Reis Fatehpur, Jotindra Nath Sen, Editor "Citizen," Rai Bahadur Lala Ram, Charan Das, Hon'ble Pundit Sunderlal, Hon'ble Pundit Madanmohan Malviya, Rai Balvadra Singh, retired Deputy Collector, Babu Ramanand Chatterjee, Principal "Kystha Pathshala," Messrs. Ramdin Vais, Moti Shah Ghandhi, Beni Pershad Capur and several other merchants and reises from mufassil; Mr. C. Y. Chintamani Asst. Editor "Indian People," Motilal Nehru, Pundit Lachminarain Vyasa and Lala Lachminarain, Banker, were also among those present.

This public meeting began respectfully to protest against the reflection on the Indian national character and sacred literature contained in the address delivered by H. E. Lord Curzon, Governor-General of India at the Convocation of the University of Calcutta on February 11th 1905.

The first resolution was proposed by Mr. M. L. Nehru.

"That this meeting further protests against the reactionary policy of His Excellency's administration as evidenced by many measures of His Excellency's regime such as the Indian Universities Act, the Official Secrets Act, the substitution of patronage for merit in making appointment and the public service resolution of May 24th 1904 which enunciate qualifications for appointments in the public service beside on racial distinctions and consequently constitutes a departure from the policy laid down in the Act of Parliament of 1883 and the Royal Proclamation of 1858."

The second Resolution was proposed by Mr. J. Simson and duly seconded by Babu Gangapershad Verma of Lucknow.

"That the foregoing resolutions on behalf of the meeting to be sent to the Secretary of State for India in council and the Prime Minister."

It was proposed by Babu Iswarsahai Reis of Fatehpur and duly seconded by Syed Mahomed, Zamindar, Honorary Magistrate and Reis.

THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH.

Pundit Bishambhar Nath, the President then rose among deafening cheers and delivered the following speech:—

Gentlemen, before I proceed formally with the duty that has been allotted to me I should like to entreat earnestly that this meeting may be characterised by due solemnity, moderation and orderliness throughout. One word as to myself, I trust, will not turn me into what has been facetiously called a capital I. I am a plain man of few words and brevity in speech is one of my small ambitions.

Like this, I would not wish to be a verberator of verbosity and to myself by voicing the feelings of my countrymen in as few words as possible. Another reason for my not vainly attempting to inflict a long winded speech upon you is a desire to avoid the fate which naturally attends all inconsiderate talking even by a most accomplished orator and a past master in the art of adorning the fervid orator with charming butterflies of rhetoric. In holding this view I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have the high authority of His Excellency Lord Curzon himself to take the liberty of reminding you of what His Lordship said at the last convocation of the Calcutta University altering only two words in the sentence. Eloquence, said His Lordship, from the chair is very like soda-water in a bottle. After the cork has been removed in a little time all the sparkle has gone. I presume you are all aware that we are all assembled here under very exceptional circumstances. It is a painful necessity that has brought us together. The novel incidents connected with the recent mishap have of late, as you know, unhappily occupied a few minutes in every drawing-room and evoked much adverse criticism in the press in India and elsewhere. I pray that it may not be supposed that we have engineered this demonstration for the set purpose of giving vent to pent up gas to fight against platitudes out of sheer oversensitiveness or sordid vindictive motives. The occasion is a most solemn one indeed. Not only is this demonstration the first one of its kind here but it is unique in the annals of British rule in India and it is our devout wish and pious hope that it were the last of its kind. The freedom of speech that we enjoy is that precious boon which our liberal and enlightened government has so generously conferred upon the people of this country and which greatly enhances its value in our estimation is the fact that the subjects of the Czar of all Russias are still unable to obtain so valuable a privilege in spite of all their efforts which have now culminated in a crisis attended with a terrible boule versement. I trust I would not be held guilty of dissimulation, when I say that having been brought up in a school of thought and culture in some respects very different from the present personally I regard it as a misfortune at this age to find myself under the necessity of associating with a movement which marks an era in the change that is creeping upon the notion of oriental etiquette which inculcates profound reverence towards high dignitaries of state as they are believed to be clothed with authority as it were by divine grace. I would however beg our critics not to imagine that in holding this meeting we have simply taken a cue from Calcutta or Madras where similar steps have already been taken. The people of these provinces though comparatively backward in education yield to none in defending their honour against unjust and uncalled for abuses. Indeed if any thing they are more jealous of self respect

than the people in some other parts of India, as these united provinces were regarded once historically as the brightest jewel of the ancient Aryavarta and still the centre and stronghold of that later but still Asiatic culture and civilization which followed in the train of Mohammedan rulers. It was here that truth took a high place in the oldest moral codes before it had been similarly honored in the West. If we take a sober and sensible view of the question whether the highest ideal of truth is to a large extent a western conception it is to be observed that after all it is a matter of mere academic interest and as such its decision might easily have been left for a calm and deliberate consideration of an anthropological institute or some other learned society. His Excellency the Viceroy who we are assured by himself, has had to consider no less than three dozens of crucial administrative reforms was not, I venture to say, justified, while presiding at the convocation of the Calcutta University in turning aside from the dusty fields of educational topics to the rosy paths of cynicism, for airing his breezy views on Indian morality. It was evidently unfortunate that the debate in the Imperial Council and the convocation were rather synchronous. This may have been an accident. A contentious debate having taken place only some twenty four hours before the meeting of the convocation, the scene in the council had unhappily so much disturbed the equanimity of His Excellency that he as a Chancellor thought it fit to expose indirectly some supposed radical defects he had apparently noticed in certain utterances of Indian gentlemen. Be this as it may, it is to be deeply regretted that in adopting an unparliamentary tone in his Convocation speech in relation to the character of the Indians generally and their sacred literature, His Excellency perhaps forgot that he was holding a highly responsible and dignified position as the august representative of our beloved sovereign whose genuine sense of affection and regard for his Indian subjects has deservedly enshrined him, as it were, as an incarnation of justice and mercy in the innermost recesses of their hearts. It may be observed here in passing that in glancing over that part of the speech of His Excellency from which I have extracted a few phrases, one is apt to be struck by the definition of flattery, vituperation, slander and the like which though only illustrative and not exhaustive are given with a legal and technical precision perhaps not to be met with even in the Indian penal code. As an unfortunate and inevitable result of the deplorable attitude assumed by His Excellency a spirit of adverse criticism against most of his administrative measures which have been characterised as reactionary and destructive of the growing aspirations of educated Indians has been still more intensified. It was expected that the first year of His Excellency's reinstallation would be inaugurated by making amends for the past and recalling his obnoxious mandates and reactionary legislation. These fond hopes which the people were led to cherish by his inspiring speeches at an early stage of his administration have to our surprise and regret been all frustrated. His Excellency's Policy has proved to be one of whispering to the ear and breaking to the heart. It is a pity that western diplomacy should thus be allowed to betray itself in holding out promises without intending to fulfil them. In the comprehensive review of his administration with which he has favoured the public in his budget speech His Excellency was pleased to say with a sense of self complacency that he saw nothing unsympathetic and reactionary in the present regime. We are sorry we can not cherish those happy illusions with due deference. We would join issue with His Excellency upon a mere exparte statement of his character and would refer him to the criticism upon his administration growing in size and volume.

Let me put a few questions in the eloquent peroration of his speech. These questions His Excellency observed, "I must leave others to answer." The fact is that both His Excellency and others have repeatedly answered these questions but their answers have unfortunately seldom, if ever, agreed. It may be that his heart goes out to the patient humble millions toiling at the wheel and at the plough knowing little of budgets but very painfully aware of the narrow margin between sufficiency and indigence but what about the educated Indian, the creature essentially of the culture of the west? Are his ambitions to be stifled? His aspirations to be choked because he knows too much about the budget, because he has asked for bread and will not remain satisfied with stones? Is he to be deprived of all possibility of a useful career? Is he, after all, the mid night oil that he spends to be told that he may not and cannot enter the sacred preserve of Government service by the open door of competition and that the only way by which he may seek entrance is by the back door of official favour and patronage? I shall go further and ask "are we not justified in declining to sing hallelujahs to His Excellency after he has told us in an unmistakable manner that none of us, not even the tallest may climb to the highest berths in the public service?" It is true that His Excellency has shown great enthusiasm for the movements of the east but is one of the greatest monuments of British rule in India, this educated Indian, to remain in the cold shade of neglect? I am afraid a detailed recapitulation and discussion of such instances with which you are all familiar would serve no useful purpose but in order to show briefly how the general policy of His Excellency's administration has gone from the bad to the worse I shall only say that whether we look to his policy regarding local self-government conferred upon us by that good man and wise statesman Lord Ripon, the universities act which instead of leaving the universities to grow in the ordinary process of evolution has made them the wards of Government officials or their infancy ceasing to cities Validation Act which the boldest of legislative heretics Act are condemned. We are constrained to say that whatever be Lord Curzon has not himself to be a friend of liberties and that instead of forward His Lordship has real feelings thrust us back at least two decades if not more. A recent instance of the gradual but steady change in the attitude of His Excellency we have only to remember the resolution upon the report of the Police Commission— it is no doubt sterilised by the jealous aspirations have limited only to De-puty Superintendentship.

the entire country admits that His Excellency is a man of remarkable talents powers and capacities. I gratefully acknowledge the good that he has done in some directions but if we have met to-day in this hall it is not because we respect constituted authority less but because we respect our honour our character and our literature more.

After the resolutions above mentioned were proposed and carried out, the meeting dispersed with a vote of thanks to the chair and cheers for the King Emperor.

INDIAN NOTES

A RAMNAGAR SENSATION.

A Ramnagar (Gujmawala) correspondent writes to the "Tribune":—The Holi festival has passed in this town in a very unpleasant way resulting in a free fight between Rai Bahadur Sirdar Anrik Singh and Sirdar Lall Singh Hassanwallia (cousins) and their followers. Criminal cases of serious hurt have been instituted by each party. I am sorry to find that Sirdar Jit Singh and Lala Utam Chand were in the fighting parties, and the latter is seriously wounded in the head.

A CHANCE FOR SPORTSMEN.

A reward of Rs. 50 will be paid by the Government Agent, Eastern Province, says the "Ceylon Gazette" to the person who furnishes satisfactory proof on or before the 31st May, 1905, of his having destroyed either of the two troublesome and dangerous elephants at present roving in the following places in Panamapattu, of the Batticaloa District, viz., one on the road at Kumuna, and the other at a place called Ulapaya, between Potuvil and Panama.—Height about the animal on Kumuna road—Height about 7½ ft.; dimension of footsteps about 1½ ft. Description of the animal at Ulapaya.—Height about 9 ft.; has white spots on the forehead and trunk; dimension of footsteps about 1½ ft.

THE SUB-MAGISTRATE'S CASE.

A correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail": The case I reported in these Notes some time ago, in which the Village Munsiff of Poonamallee, the Monigar, the Kumam and others, were summoned on the complaint of the late accused in the Sub-Magistrate's horse tongue-cutting case to show cause why sanction should not be granted for their prosecution for perjury in giving evidence in the above case, came to a close yesterday, when the Magistrate, in his judgment, stated that he saw no grounds why sanction for perjury should be granted. The case has created much local interest on account of the accused being Government petty officials and having lasted some time. Both parties engaged High Court Vakils.

A PANTHER'S CARCASE IN DISPUTE.

A curious dispute has arisen among the local shikaris, an Aurangabad correspondent writes. Several panthers having made their appearance behind the Mookbura hills several mounds of the Military, city and mills baited the spot with goats, Captain W. G. Hamilton, I. M. S., of the 73rd C. Infantry managed to hit his quarry, but the wounded animal escaped to its den where it died. On the following day the Panchaki Jagirdar's shikari found the dead animal after a diligent search and carried off the carcase to his master's quarters. But this gentleman disclaimed having shot the animal and directed it to be sent to the Doctor sahib. This, however, coming to the notice of Mr. Hartley the Engineer of the mills, he claimed it as his own. The dispute was, however, settled by Captain Hamilton extracting the bullet from the animal and thus proving that the bag was his.

METHODS OF MEASURING.

Of course the scale of measuring the water was not the modern scale. If one had spoken to a Roman of those days of "cubic feet per second" he would in all probability have politely but unmistakably gaped. He was accustomed to a circular pipe 1½ Roman digits in diameter, and called a "quinnaria." He found the number of square units in the area of the cross-section of this circle, and measured the quantity of water which passed through this area. The "denaria" pipe, of double the diameter, was believed to discharge four quinnarias. At any rate, 14,000 quinnarias were delivered in Rome per day, and, on the basis of a population of one million, it has been calculated that the consumption varied from thirty-five to 126 gallons per head per day. Incidentally, we learn that one or other of the aqueducts was generally under repairs, so that the larger estimate probably refers to the more or less rare occasions when all three were in working order. There was no direct communication with the main for private houses. Water was run into small receiving tanks, and thence to the house by a quinnaria. The measures taken by Frontinus were so successful that he tells us morality was promoted thereby. "Those who drew water unlawfully and with fear now draw their supply free from care by grant of the Sovereign."

FIVE OR SEVEN?

An astronomical correspondent writes:—"Pending the arrival of more definite observations than have yet come to hand, it would seem expedient to accept the discovery of a seventh satellite with some reserve. As yet no sufficient observations of the supposed sixth satellite have been published to establish beyond doubt that it is a satellite, and not a mere 'minor planet' or 'asteroid.' So far as the observations yet made public go, it is not absolutely impossible that this new supposed seventh satellite may prove to be the same object as the supposed sixth satellite. In this case it could not be a satellite at all, but must be a minor planet, and the discovery of a sixth satellite, as well as of a seventh, would be disproved."

A reward of Rs. 100 is offered by the Government for killing a man-eating tiger in the Godavery Agency. The animal is reported to have killed four men last year in a short space of time within a radius of about 20 miles.

A rogue elephant is giving trouble to the ex-Amir's elephants near Raiwala, writes a Rawalpindi correspondent. Should it really be a rogue elephant the sooner it is proclaimed the better. There are many good shikaris here who wouldn't mind going out and trying a shot at the animal. Mr. Hope, G. S., Superintendent of the Doon, secured, under the pilotage of Raja Runbir Singh, a fine male tiger, measuring 10 feet 1 inch, on the night of the 21st ultimo in the Kasrao district of the Eastern Doon.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Mar. 31
It is officially announced at St. Petersburg that owing to the diversity of views of the members of the special conference appointed to carry out the Rescript mentioned on the 4th ultimo, the fulfilment of the Tsar's wish that the people should participate in legislation will probably be delayed.

BOMB FACTORY DISCOVERED.

London, Apr. 1.
The shadowing of high officials at St. Petersburg by three men disguised as sleigh drivers has led to the arrest of a band of twelve revolutionaries and the seizure of a regular bomb laboratory. Their papers show they were acting under the direction of a committee in Switzerland.

London, April 2.
The Commissioner of Police at Lodz has been seriously wounded by a bomb in the street. His assailant was cut down by a policeman and taken to hospital.

London, Apr. 3.
A serious conflict took place at Warsaw yesterday, between a crowd of a thousand Socialists, mostly Jews, who were carrying red flags and a mixed patrol of military and police consisting of twenty men. The police declare that the Socialists fired revolvers, whereupon they fired several volleys into the crowd, killing four and wounding forty. Many arrests were made.

London, April 3.
A policy of rigorous repression is being pursued throughout Russia generally but marked efforts are being made to conciliate Finland. The obnoxious military law imposed in 1901 has been virtually abrogated, and the dismissal of the Judges, who refused to enforce it has been rescinded.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, Apr. 1.
Marshal Oyama says that natives report the Russians are at Hailung 77 miles south-west of Kirin, and are retreating northward. The enemy are now concentrating at Kirin.

London, Apr. 1.
Admiral Nibogatoff's third Baltic squadron has passed Perim, making for Jibuti.

London, Apr. 1.
Subscriptions to the American half of the Japanese loan amounted to nearly a hundred millions sterling.

London, Apr. 1.
The statement made by the "Times" St. Petersburg correspondent as to President Roosevelt's mediation between Russia and Japan is authoritatively denied in Washington.

London, April 2.
The official denials regarding the peace parleying are plentiful, but it is the firm conviction on the Paris and St. Petersburg Bourses, that peace is approaching.

The Japanese internal loan of a hundred million yen at 6 per cent. has been covered five times. Seventy millions of the subscriptions were above the issue price.

Ten trains are leaving Russia daily laden with commissariat and war material for Vladivostok for the forthcoming siege.

London, April 2.
The Russian papers report that seventy Japanese prisoners have committed suicide in the Novgorod province, but only one suicide is officially admitted.

A Commission under Professor Martens has been appointed at St. Petersburg to examine into the British claim for compensation for the sinking of "Hipsang."

London, April 3.
Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says the Japanese occupied Mennuchin on the Kirin Road, eighteen miles north-east of Kaiyuan. Reuter's correspondent wires from St. Petersburg, that it is believed a Council will shortly be held at "Tsarskoe Selo" to finally decide upon the continuation or otherwise of the war after receiving reports from General Livievitch and other commanders and the Russian Ambassadors abroad.

Admiral Nibogatoff's third Baltic Fleet has anchored at Jibuti.

GENERAL.

London, Apr. 1.
The official financial year has closed with a surplus of £1,864,839.

Tenders are invited for two million Sterling India 3 per cent. stock not redeemable before 1948, minimum rate 97.

London, Apr. 1.
In Athletics Oxford beat Cambridge by 6 to 3 points.

In an Association match at the Crystal Palace between England and Scotland, England made one, and Scotland nil.

London, April 1.
The Budget surplus is estimated at two millions.

It is believed that there will be a reduction in the Income Tax of two pence, and a penny, or possibly two pence, a pound in the duty on tea.—"Englishman."

London, April 3.
During a debate in the House of Commons on the Army Estimates, Mr. Arnold Foster said that owing to circumstances, with which we had nothing to do, there had been a decrease in eastern pressure, but we must not count too much on its permanency. He did not think it desirable to discuss the question of danger to the Indian frontier. The Imperial Government was proceeding to accord in advance the demands of the Indian Government. It was certain we should not want fewer troops than we sent to South Africa for the needs of war in India.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

RUSSIANS RETREATING.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(From the Japanese Consul.)

Bom'ay, Apr. 2.

The following report was received on the 31st ultimo: A native coming from the directions of Hailung, which is 87 miles south-west of Kirin states that the Russians and Manchus under Colonel Madittoff retreated northward from the neighbourhood of Hailung and the enemy is now concentrating at Kirin.

A second report states: Subscriptions for the news exchange bonds of one hundred millions yen aggregate to about five hundred millions, whereof seventy millions are above the issue price.

Calcutta Gazette. April. 5.

LAND REVENUE

SUSPENSION AND REMISSION.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

The following important Resolution of the Government of India is published:—

Turning first to the treatment of widespread calamities, the Governor-General in Council desires to lay emphasis on the principle that the cases with which this resolution is primarily concerned are those in which the revenue-payer has not by rule or contract any right to an abatement of the fixed demand assessed upon his lands at settlement. The assessments have all been fixed so as to allow, so far as the assessing officers could judge, for ordinary variations of season during the period of settlement, and the demand ought in theory to be paid in bad years as well as in good. But experience has shown that it is hopeless to expect the revenue-payer to save in good years the means wherewith to supply the deficiency in very bad years and all investigations into the condition of the agricultural population have brought to notice the evil effects of rigidity of collection in adverse seasons. The Government of India have, therefore, for many years past recognized the necessity of organizing a proper system of suspensions and remissions fitted to meet such seasons. It is no part of the intentions of the Government of India that the system to which they give their adherence in this Resolution should authorize anything in the shape of laxity or carelessness in the collection of the fixed demand, nor do they contemplate that the system of suspensions and remissions should form as has been proposed, "a regular feature of the revenue administration." It is, indeed, to be adopted as an integral part of the revenue policy of the state, but it is to be recognized as a measure purely of grace and not of right to be exercised only in exceptional cases of calamity, so severe as to justify and necessitate a relaxation of the settlement contract. It is true that even within the areas under fixed assessment, the necessity for relief will recur with greater frequency in some parts than in others; and that in tracts of great precariousness which it has not been thought advisable to bring under fluctuating assessment, such relief may be frequently needed as a matter of administrative necessity, but even in such tracts, the Government of India have no intention of abandoning the general principle of "fixity of demand" with its attendant certainty as the basis of its revenue system. They recognise, however, in all cases, that it is unwise, even in the interests of their own revenue, to insist absolutely upon what has been termed "the sacredness of the settlement contract," or to call upon the cultivator to pay the revenue under all circumstances, however unfavourable, that while it is wholesome and legitimate to expect him to take the bad with the good in years of ordinary fluctuation, it is hopeless to expect him to be able to meet the fixed demand in years when the crops barely suffice for his own sustenance, and that payments should not be enforced under conditions which would compel a cultivator of ordinary care and prudence to imperil his future solvency in order to meet them.

GENERAL OBJECT.

The general object of grant of the suspensions and remissions being of the character above described, it remains to determine the manner in which they should be carried out in practice. The Government of India do not desire to prescribe for observance any detailed rules of procedure on this subject, but they consider it important to place the Local Governments in possession of their views as to the main principles upon which the arrangements should be conducted, and to entrust to the Local Governments the duty of promulgating rules of practice which shall conform as closely as local conditions may allow with the principle herein laid down. In dealing with the subject it will be convenient to explain the wishes of the supreme government separately on each of the following points, viz:—

(i) the unit to be dealt with in granting relief; (ii) the question whether suspensions should ordinarily precede remission; (iii) the degree of crop-failure which should be held to justify the grant of relief; (iv) the scale of relief for the previous degrees of crop-failure; (v) the authorities to be empowered to sanction relief; (vi) the circumstances justifying remissions; (vii) the method of collecting suspended revenue; (viii) the effect of the suspension or remission of revenue on rent and vice versa; (ix) the degree to which differentiation should be allowed between revenue-payers; (x) the effect of suspension or remission in lands of which the revenue is assigned.

SCALE OF RELIEF.

The Government of India are fully aware that in dealing with the scale of relief to be given when the crops do not reach half the normal

PROMPT RELIEF.

In dealing with widespread calamities it is essential that the relief given should be prompt, and if due promptitude is to be ensured, it is obvious that anything like a field-to-field enquiry is impossible. The degree of immediate relief given must necessarily be based on information compiled by villages or homogeneous groups of villages, and must consequently be the same throughout such villages or homogeneous group.

In provinces where the Collector is not invested with power to grant suspensions on his own authority, however, it would be well to make it clear that the orders of superior authorities prescribing a uniform ratio of relief over a tract of group of villages may be modified by the Collector if, after making his report he finds reason to believe that the agricultural conditions of any villages have been wrongly reported by him.

FOREIGN RELIEF.

In certain cases it will be found advisable to grant relief from the beginning in the form of remissions. If for instance the amount of revenue which it is decided not to collect is such that when considered with reference to the recent history and present condition of the people the nature of the assessment and the character of the tract it is practically certain that it will be impossible subsequently to collect it, it should not be kept unnecessarily hanging over the heads of the revenue payers, but should be remitted at once. So again the special conditions of certain tracts may justify the adoption of initial remission as the rule. But in view of the fact that remissions require more careful investigation than is necessary for an order of suspension it may be taken as a general rule that in cases of widespread calamity where promptitude is essential relief should in the first instance be given in the form of suspensions.

CRITERION OF CROP FAILURE.

The Government of India recognize that it is impossible to lay down a fixed criterion for the determination of the exact point of crop failure, which should be deemed to justify the grant of relief. It has been suggested that only those calamities which are too severe to have been contemplated by the assessing officers as included in the normal course of events should be recognized, and the principle is sound in itself, but does not cover the whole case. An 8 anna failure of crops in a precarious tract where it is of no unusual occurrence would have been taken into account at assessment and would not on this principle admit of the grant of relief whereas a similar degree of failure in a rich and stable tract, not having been taken into consideration, would on the same principle be held to justify relief. In a tract of assured rainfall, however, the cultivators are more prosperous, their resources greater, and notwithstanding their heavier assessment than those of the cultivators in a precarious area, and it must be remembered that the relative burden of the assessment as compared with the resources from which it has to be paid is of more importance than its actual incidence. On the whole the Government of India have decided to accept the conclusion arrived at in 1882, and endorsed by the Famine Commission of 1901, "that relief will not ordinarily be required when there is half a normal crop. It may indeed be necessary to vary the standards, it would be fallacious to suppose that the various degrees of crop failure can be accurately dealt with by slavishly following any arithmetical formula. At the same time they are convinced that, without the guidance of some arithmetical standard, it is impossible to ensure any kind of uniformity in the grant of relief, and accordingly while deprecating anything in the shape of servile adherence to formula, they are strongly of opinion that a standard scale of relief of an arithmetical basis should be prescribed for general guidance, and that a scale should be laid down in this form for each district or other suitable tract. When a district comes under settlement it will generally be advisable to make the revision of the scale for that district a part of the duties of the Settlement Officer.

GRANTING AUTHORITIES.

As regards the remission of revenue the Government of India are content to leave the local Governments to decide as the authority empowered to grant sanction in each case. In the case of suspension, however, they are strongly of opinion that the power to suspend, that is to say, to postpone by formal order, the collection of the revenue should rest in the Collector, or at least in the Commissioner. It is essential that, if suspension is to have its full beneficial effect, the amount to be suspended should be settled, and has the decision to suspend should be communicated to those who would otherwise have to pay rent or revenue, before the day on which payment becomes due. The degree of failure, however, cannot be estimated till the season is well advanced. Local enquiries take time and if further delay is caused by a reference to the Board of Revenue, it becomes almost inevitable that this essential condition cannot be maintained.

ELASTICITY OF SUSPENSIONS.

As already explained above, as soon as it becomes clear that it will be inadvisable to collect suspended revenue or any particular portion of it, it should be remitted at once. It is most undesirable to keep suspensions hanging for long over the head of the revenue payers; and the Government of India are of opinion that revenue which has been under suspension for three years should ordinarily be remitted as a matter of course. They are also prepared, in the case of fully assessed tracts with an outturn which is fairly constant, to accept a rule which would suspend the amount of revenue under suspension given time to the equivalent of one year's demand of an ordinary year. In the latter case it would not follow that when suspensions exceeded the limit, the whole amount suspended should be remitted, and logically speaking only the balance by which they were in excess should be so dealt with. But in the case of calamities so severe as to call for heavy suspensions, greater liberality than this will no doubt be desirable.

RECOVERY OF SUSPENSIONS.

In paragraph 285 of their Report the Famine Commission of 1901 recommend that an early decision should be reached as to the amount of suspended revenue which should be at once remitted, and that the balance should be spread over two or three years for collection. In view, however, of the time required for the recovery of the cultivator from the effects of a bad season, the Government of India are prepared to accept the principle that as a general rule no suspended revenue should be collected until after one fair harvest subsequent to the failure has been reaped in the affected tract.

CULTIVATORS VS. LANDLORDS.

In dealing with the collection of the revenue, the persons with whom the Government is chiefly concerned are the cultivators of the soil. It is primarily upon them that the payment of the revenue depends, even when a landlord or a middleman intervenes between them and the Government. The prosperity of the masses who till the fields of India is in the main identical with the prosperity of the country and the people; and if a failure of crops is not of such a nature as to render necessary relief to revenue payer. Acting on this basis the Government of India desire to affirm the principle that no relief should ordinarily be given to the revenue-payer unless it can be ensured either by legislation or by executive arrangement that a proportionate degree of relief will be extended to the actual cultivators of the soil or at least to the tenant class (subtenants being for the present left out of consideration).

In the Punjab and in the Central and United Provinces there are legislative provisions which already to a greater or less degree secure this object, and the Government of India are ready to accept the present arrangements in the provinces as sufficient.

In some of the other provinces where tenancy legislation is under consideration the opportunity should be taken of introducing into the proposed legislation provisions similar to those in force in the provinces above mentioned.

There are special difficulties connected with the adoption of this principle in Bengal, but the Government of India consider that it would be unsatisfactory if the actual cultivators in this important province should, alone in India, be left without any definite protection from Government in cases where their rents are unpayable and the Local Government will be separately addressed upon this question.

While laying down the rule that relief to revenue must ordinarily be conditional on relief to rent, the Government of India are at the same time prepared to accept the converse principle that when Government interferes authoritatively to secure suspension of remission of rent, it should afford corresponding relief to the payers of the revenue which is based on that rent, however wealthy the individual may be by whom the revenue is paid. This arrangement avoids the possible appearance of injustice, and its adoption is most expedient.

CLASS DISTINCTION.

In view of the urgency with which proposals for suspension in the case of widespread calamity must always be undertaken it must be recognised as impossible to make any discrimination in suspending revenue between different classes of payers, and such discrimination when exercised at all must be confined to cases of remission. In dealing with remissions a distinction should, in the first place, be drawn between the classes who cultivate the soil and the landlord class. It will not as a rule, be difficult to distinguish the two classes with an accuracy. Of course no discrimination between one kind of revenue payer and another should be made in the case of persons belonging to the cultivating class. Whether such a discrimination should be exercised in dealing with the landlord classes is a question of some difficulty. As a matter of principle the exercise of such discrimination is perfectly justifiable and legitimate, and there is nothing inequitable in such discrimination. The relaxation of the settlement contract is a concession granted as an act of grace, and the question whether it should be granted when these necessities cannot be said to exist is a question of expediency only.

In considering the advisability of discrimination in dealing with the landlord class it must be remembered that throughout considerable parts of India the Government has power to ensure the suspension or remission of rent to meet cases of crop-failure. The field for discrimination is therefore narrowed down to those cases where the extension of relief to tenants cannot at present be secured. The following three classes of persons may fairly be excluded from remissions of revenue. Firstly the men who are known to be bad landlords and rack-renters. Secondly, those well-to-do land owners who can pay without imperilling their future solvency. And thirdly, the capitalist money lending and professional classes who held land purely as an investment.

ASSIGNED AN UNASSIGNED REVENUE.

Finally it may be laid down as a general principle that in granting remissions or suspensions of land revenue no distinction can be made between assigned and unassigned revenue. Assignees of revenue are entitled only to the revenue due under our rules, and if revenue is remitted or suspended the assignee must bear the loss. In the case both of assignees of land revenue and of holders of revenue-free land the Government should have precisely the same power to require remission or suspension or rent as it has in revenue-paying lands, and the loss which in revenue-paying lands would fall on Government must, in such cases, be borne by the assigned or revenue-free holder. In provinces where the subject is of sufficient importance and the above arrangement is not already provided for, steps should now be taken to ensure the grant of relief to tenants in assigned and revenue-free lands in the manner above indicated.

BROAD PRINCIPLES.

Briefly speaking therefore the broad principles which should govern the grant of relief are those which should govern the grant of relief for widespread calamities, such as famine and adverse seasons, are as follows:—Relief should ordinarily take in the first instance the form of suspension and should be extended in a fairly uniform manner to whole villages or tracts or groups of villages. It

should be given except in the case of more than half the crop, or of relief given should be based on a simple scale of ratios so graduated that the degree of relief may rise more rapidly than the degree of crop failure. The amount of relief granted should be known to the people before collections begin, and the Collector should, where possible, be given the power to determine, and announce the suspension of revenue. Suspended revenue should be remitted as soon as it becomes apparent that it will not be collected, and this may ordinarily be assumed when it has been in suspension three years; and in certain classes of tracts a remission should be given when the amount suspended exceeds a year's revenue. The instalments of the suspended revenue to be recovered should be considered as the character of each succeeding harvest becomes known, and should be fixed and announced at a reasonable period before the ordinary demand for that harvest becomes due. Remission or suspension of revenue should entail a corresponding remission or suspension of rent and vice versa. Discrimination between revenue-payers should be undertaken in remissions only and should be confined to the landlord class: it should be exercised only where the Government has no power to ensure relief reaching the tenants, and where the classes discriminated are in fair strength or own considerable areas. And in dealing with revenue which is assigned either to the assessor or to some third party, the same principle should be followed as in dealing with unassigned revenue.

RELIEF FOR LOCAL CALAMITIES.

The above principles will also apply generally to the case of relief of distress which is caused by "local" calamities, such as floods, hailstorms and the like. In the case of local calamities however the procedure should be subject to the four following modifications:—

(I) Relief instead of being given on the same scale throughout the tract effected will, as a rule, be based on a field-to-field inspection showing the actual damage suffered by each holding.

(II) The revenue may, in the first instance, be suspended by the Collector pending receipt of the orders of higher authority, but it will usually be found most appropriate to arrange that the orders in such cases should be orders for immediate remission.

(III) In view of the more minute inspection on which the relief is based there is no objection, should the Local Government so desire to prescribing more elaborate and possibly more liberal scales for the graduation of relief according to the state of the crop than in the case of "widespread" calamities.

(IV) In deciding whether relief is necessary or not an adequate discrimination between the persons concerned will be secured if regard is had not merely to the field affected, but to the property or holding in which it lies. If the field is cultivated by the owner, and the loss is small compared with the total income of his whole property; or if it is cultivated by a tenant and the loss is small compared with the total income of the holding; no relief need be given. No relief need

be given moreover in areas where relief can not be assured to the tenant, and the owner belongs to one of the three classes described at the end of paragraph 15 above.

REVISION OF RULES.

Such are the general principles which the Government of India desire to see followed in the suspension and remission of revenue, and Local Governments are requested to examine their existing rules in the light of what has been said in this Resolution. They will be addressed in separate letters on certain points special to each. The Governor-General in Council is fully aware that in this matter as in so many others much must depend upon local conditions, and that uniformity in matters of detail would be not only unnecessary but also inadvisable. But he thinks that certain general principles may be laid down with advantage as underlying the grant of relief. He recognises also that the circumstances of certain tracts may be so special as to justify or necessitate some degree of relaxation for exception from some even of these principles, and he is prepared to give the fullest consideration to representations to this effect.

But he believes that if the general principles which are discussed above are adopted and carried into practice by the Local Governments, the administration of the fixed land revenue system of India will be freed from the evils of excessive rigidity which have in some places hitherto attached to it, and that a degree of elasticity will have been introduced sufficient to ensure that in times of agricultural calamity the burdens of the cultivating classes are not aggravated by any unreasonable insistence on the demands of the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 13.

Barrack Accommodation in Northern China.—Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he has now received the replies to the inquiries he promised should be made as to the character of the barrack accommodation in Northern China and the health of the officers and troops; whether he will furnish a return of the various reports made by medical and other inspecting officers as to the accommodation provided for our troops in Northern China; and how much of the money taken in the Army Estimates last year for the improvement of this accommodation at Pekin and Shan-hai-kwan has been expended.

Mr. Brodick.—I have received a report on the barrack accommodation in North China. As regards the last part of the Question, about 9,000l. of the money voted for Pekin will be spent this year, but the money provided for Shan-hai-kwan will not be spent.

The Rolt Case.—Mr. MacNeill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether there will be placed before Parliament, at the earliest practicable date, a full report of the proceedings in the case Imperator v. A. C. Rolt, tried in the Calcutta High Court on Dec. 20, 1904, together with full particulars of the action taken in the early stages of the suit by the Collector of Purneah and the Commissioner of Bhagalpore.

Mr. Brodick.—I am in communication with the Government of India with regard to this matter, and I do not at present see any sufficient reason for laying papers regarding it before Parliament.

Wednesday, March 15.

Indian and Foreign Drafts.—Sir J. Dickson-Poynder asked whether the Secretary of State for War could state the total number of drafts whose term of service would expire within the next two years that had been sent to all stations, Indian and foreign respectively, within the past six months.

Mr. Arnold-Forster: It is impossible to state exactly the number of such men whose service expires in the next two years, without reference to every unit concerned. The number who embarked during the troping season just ended with less than two years' service to complete was, for India 4,610, and for the Colonies 965.

Firearms in India.—Mr. Field asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether soldiers of the Native ruling chiefs in India are provided only with muzzle-loading rifles; and whether, seeing that the Indian people are not allowed to provide themselves with firearms, and in view of the number of natives destroyed annually by tigers, lions, and wolves, he will state the number of lives so lost during the last five years, and say whether the Indian Government will permit the Indian people to bear arms for their protection.

Mr. Brodick: With the exception of the Imperial Service troops, troops of the Native States are, generally speaking, not armed with breechloaders. It is not the case that the Indian people are not allowed to provide themselves with firearms. In India, as in his country firearms are not allowed to be possessed without a license, but such licenses are granted, when required for the purpose of destroying wild animals or for the protection of crops, free of charge. The number of persons returned as killed by tigers in British India during the last five years is 4,925, and by wolves 1,866; no deaths are shown as due to lions, of which there are very few in India. The number of free licenses for firearms issued during the same period was 46,857, of which 37,678 are reported to have been still in force in 1903.

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REGISTRATION.

LAND REVENUE.

AGRICULTURE.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

I would start of all refer to the complaint of the Hon'ble Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar and others that too short a time had been given for the consideration of the budget after it was laid on the table and before its discussion in the council. On this point I will only say that if any blame attaches to anyone it is to myself. The ordinary practice has been to allow one week from the date of the presentation of the budget to the date of its discussion. In this the practice of this council conforms to the practice of the Govt. of India, and it can hardly be urged that more time is required to master the details of the Provincial budget than is required for those of the Imperial. I accordingly fixed to-morrow as the day for the discussion of the Budget this year. I have, however, an important and most pleasant duty to perform to-morrow in being present when this Excellency the Viceroy lays the foundation stone of the Pusa Agricultural Research Institute and I was compelled therefore to alter the date, which I had fixed. I then fixed to-day, simply because I thought that members would probably like to take up the discussion of the budget as soon as possible and because I had no idea that it would take

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REMEDY FOR BOWEL COMPLAINTS
IN CHILDREN.**

DISTRICT BOARDS.

POLICE REFORM.

Passing from these details, however, I desire very briefly to refer to certain criticisms which have been made about the proposals of the Commission in respect of European officers and the formation of a Provincial Service. I heard on Wednesday my hon. friend the Maharaja of Darbhanga express his regret "that it has been found necessary to close the doors of the new Imperial Police Service to Indians and to relegate them to a Provincial Service with the designation of Deputy Sub-perintendent of Police." What one would gather from such a statement as this is that

THE PROVINCIAL SERVICE.

In conclusion, I should like to say one word in regard to the abolition of competition for the Provincial Service. There is no doubt that the progress of education has rendered it possible to demand high educational qualifications from candidates for the Provincial Service. The state of things which existed before the Bengal Government dealt with the question of recruitment for this service in its last Resolution was this: There was a competitive examination. Only three candidates were selected purely by competition after necessary inquiries had been made in regard to their physical fitness and their moral character. Other candidates were appointed not by competition but merely by selection from amongst candidates who had qualified at this examination. It seemed to me and to a very large body of officials and non-official gentlemen (the majority of whom were Indians) whom I consulted, that it was quite unnecessary to have a special competitive examination in a province where we had only one University; that the better plan would be to appoint candidates not because they have qualified in the special test, but because they have qualified in the University. It is a far better test of educational fitness and of strength of character to obtain a degree in a University than to qualify in a single competitive examination. So that men might feel that it was possible to fight their own way into the service, we agreed to request the Syndicate of the University to assist us in the selection of three candidates who should be the best candidates of their year in the University. For the rest, instead of leaving the selection to the Lieutenant-Governor and his staff at head quarters, we called upon the Commissioners to nominate candidates who had obtained University degrees, so that men might be appointed who had not only shown what we regard to be a better educational qualification than the mere passing of a competitive examination, but who should also be known to responsible officers as men likely to make good public servants. That is the change which has been introduced in Bengal, and which has been introduced with the full approval of the Government of India. It seems to me that the result will necessarily be to encourage education and in all human probability to secure a better class of Government servants. The picture drawn by the Hon. Babu Bipendra Nath Basu of the development of sycophyancy under this scheme does not alarm me much. It proceeds from failure to appreciate how good students are watched in the neighbourhood of their homes, and it implies a lower estimate of the character of Indian gentlemen in the mofussil and of their relations with local officers than I am prepared to accept.

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INDIAN NOTES

RE-DISCOVERY OF THE LOST ORCHID.

Every horticulturist in general and orchidist in particular, all the world over, will be interested to learn, says "Indian Planting and Gardening," that the "lost orchid," "Cypripedium Fairianum," has been re-discovered. The discoverer is a European, and Englishman; and he with Mr. S. P. Chatterji, the well known florist and nurseryman of Calcutta, have the secret of its natural "habitat" between them. They have a fine stock of plants, and will doubtless make the most of them in due course. They will now claim the reward of £2,000, offered by a certain London firm of plant merchants, to any one who would re-discover the "lost orchid." The locality where this orchid was found remains a profound secret for the present, but suffice it to say that it was not found in the Garo Hills, its supposed natural habitat.

TIGRESS AT MAHALESWAR.

A Mahaleswar correspondent writes:—A tigress which had for the past three months created great havoc among the cattle of the surrounding villages was on Sunday run to earth at the village of Old Mahaleswar. Major Jameson, I. M. S., the Superintendent, and a couple of other sportsmen had for the previous three days successively organised beats, but somehow "Stripes" did not show in view of the guns. On Sunday news was again brought by trackers who traced her lair in low dense brushwood a little way off the road. The drive was successfully arranged and brought the tigress towards the only gun, that of Major Jameson, who rolled her over with a single shot. The animal measured about nine feet and had a finely marked coat. Her destruction will rid the road to Arthur's Seat and Bhiphstone Point of a brute that was a terror to the villagers, making it risky for them to venture in the forest; and Major Jameson is to be congratulated for an excellent piece of sportsmanship.

THE FIRE-WALKING MYSTERY.

A correspondent to an India paper in the south, writing in reference to the fire-walking ceremonies common in certain parts of India, says: "I once saw a man passing red-hot chains through his hands, and picking a rupee out of a vessel full of boiling oil, without suffering the least damage. There was not the least doubt that the chains were actually red and the oil actually boiling. The experiments were made in broad daylight by one who had been a 'sanyasi,' who said he had often walked over burning ashes without the least injury. All the facts are prepared for in the same way, that is, the hands or feet, as the case may be, are well rubbed with the juice of the aloe. I felt the man's hands immediately he had passed the red-hot chains through them from end to end, he said, but found they were very hot only, and not burnt in the least degree. Walking over red embers with natural soles to the feet about half an inch thick must be a trifling thing, compared with handling red-hot chains. There is neither mystery nor jugglery in the matter. Scientific investigation might be made, because the fact could be turned to a practical use."

CAPTURE OF ELEPHANT.

A Coorg correspondent writes:—Four more elephants have been caught by the Forest Department near the spot where, as I reported at the time, a large tusker and a cow were captured a while ago. Three of the last batch proved surprisingly tractable, and, after being got out of the pits, were with very little difficulty taken away, in the company of some elephants of Timmathi, where a large cage was built for their reception. One, a large cow, however, in her desperate efforts to regain freedom, knocked over the tame animal to which she had been made fast. Her getting off seemed a near thing, as there was only one stout rope between them, and the strain upon it was great. In the end, however, she was also brought to reason, and moved off behind the others. The large tusker which was caught on the former occasion, as reported by me at the time, is still kept caged near the spot where he was taken. His head was full of sores due to his butting against the bars of his cage to get away. These are healing now, and he is becoming more docile, as his keeper, when the brute is in a good humour, is able to venture into his cage. A valuable haul was made when he was taken, so it is satisfactory to think his life has been saved.

"BAEL KA MEM SAHIB."

Says the "Tribune":—Many of our readers may have heard of an Assistant Commissioner, Delhi, who subsequently turned out to be perhaps the best Lieutenant-Governor the Punjab has had up till now, being quite astounded on learning that a "Gai" which was the subject of a theft could not be brought for inspection to his Court room which was on the second story; and later, when he had satisfied himself that the "Gai" was only a cow, reproved his orderly for not telling him earlier that the object stolen was "Bael Ka Mem Sahib." This was in the early sixties, and the mistake was committed by a newly-arrived Assistant Commissioner, who evidently understood by the word "Gai" the meaning conveyed by the English word "guy." What would our readers, however, say to the following when they know that the writer of the judgment in which the ludicrous mistake occurs is in the year of grace 1905 the Chief Executive Officer of a District none other than our old friend Mr. Bosworth Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Attock. In a case of alleged murder by poisoning it was stated in the evidence that the poison was administered in "Bhai" distributed at a Dharmasala. The "Bhai" of the Dharmasala however denied this allegation. Just note how the experienced and learned Magistrate describes this denial in his judgment. "The 'brother' of the Dharmasala however says that no 'Karah' was distributed that morning." Fancy a District Officer in the Punjab not knowing that Dharmasalas are charity houses and can have no "brothers," and that "Bhai" is a title given to learned Sikhs or "Granthis!"

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During the epidemic of whooping cough which was prevalent in Jamaica, Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was freely used. Mr. J. Riley Bennett, Chemist at Brown's Town, Jamaica, says of it: "I cannot speak too highly of this remedy. It has never failed in a case where I have recommended it and grateful mothers are daily thanking me for advising them to use it." For sale by All Chemists & Storekeepers Price, 1 Re. 2 Rs

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Babu Madhu Sudhan De, Retired Jallor, writes:—

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Flatulence, Headache, Loss of Sleep, Bilio-ness, Rumbling in the Abdomen, Pinching or Gripping Pain in the Bowels, Acid Eructations, Burning Sensations in the Heart or Stomach, Nausea or Vomiting after Meals, Costiveness, Diarrhoea, Distaste for Food, Loss of Appetite, Giddiness, Lassitude, etc.

One dose will give immediate relief and, if continued for some time, will radically cure the disease.

Rao Bahadur B. G. Sathie, Poona writes:—"My wife suffered from Dyspepsia for a long time, and your SUDHA CHURNA has done her good."

K. G. Kalkar Esq., B. A., Principal, Poona Training College, writes:—"I was suffering from Acidity and Colic. Rao Bahadur B. G. Sathie recommended to me your SUDHA CHURNA and got a bottle of it for me from you. I am using it and am glad to say I have got rid of my complaints."

Raghunath Sing Esq., Post Master, Hoshangabad, writes:—"Kindly send two bottles of SUDHA CHURNA, as I have derived much benefit by its use or Constipation, as also my friend to whom I gave too Churna."

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Babu Krihna Prosad Maitra, Zemindar and Hon. Magistrate, Malancha, Sonarpur, writes:—"I am glad to say that I have derived much benefit within a couple of days of its (SUDHA CHURNA) use and have every reason to believe that by continuing the medicine for some time I shall be completely cured of the Indigestion from which I have been suffering. I used many other medicines, both Allopathic and Kabiraj, but none of them has given any benefit."

Babu Karmadand Mukherjee, Hon. Magistrate, Burdwan, writes:—"The phial of SUDHA CHURNA which you sent about a week ago, has given much relief to my wife who has been suffering from dyspepsia since last 3 years. Please send 3 large phials without least delay."

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